

# Spring Mill State Park

**All programs are free unless otherwise noted.**

**Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs:** [www.interpretiveservices.in.gov/programs](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov/programs)

**Nature Center**  
*Open Daily 10am-5pm*

**Mountain Bike Rental**  
*Open Daily; Hours Vary*

**Pioneer Village**  
*Open Daily thru 28<sup>th</sup> 9am-5pm*

*Check out bikes at Camp Store  
\$5/hour (includes helmet)*

**Virgil I. Grissom Memorial**  
*Open Daily 8:30am-4pm*

**Hayrides**  
*Thursday - Friday - Saturday*

**Twin Caves Boat Tours**  
*Open Weekends 9am-5pm*  
\$3/adult, \$1/child (under 11)

**Hayrides**  
Thursday - Friday - Saturday  
7pm - 8pm - 9pm  
Register at Camp Store  
\$3/person

**Please arrive on time for scheduled programs.**  
*Spring Mill State Park follows Eastern Daylight Time.*

## Public programs are designed for individuals and families.

If you will be bringing an organized group, contact the Nature Center in advance for a copy of our program catalogue and schedule a private program just for your group (prices vary). (812) 849-4129

**Get advance notice of special events and programs!**

Sign up for our email list at the Nature Center, Pioneer Village Grist Mill, Spring Mill Inn, or email [springmillstatepark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:springmillstatepark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## HP-HP *Healthy Parks – Healthy People*

Get "INShape" with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.



WATCH FOR THE ROVING NATURALIST  
LOOK FOR THE HIKES AND STORFLS

## October 1 – 31 , 2007

## Saturday, October 6 *Autumn Harvest Days*

**11am-5pm Old-Fashioned Harvest Fair** – Spring Mill brings the flavor of a county fair to the Pioneer Village! Check out displays of canned goods, garden produce, and traditional crafts produced by area residents and Spring Mill’s staff and volunteers. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Lawn.

**11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

**12:15pm**    **Chicken Scratch** – Work with some fall colors as you learn the basic stitches for “chicken scratch.” Pioneer Village, Sheeks House (Weaver’s Shop) (45-60 min).

**1:00pm**      **Pie-Eating Contest** – How fast can you devour a delicious piece of pie? This is your chance to find out! Certificates awarded to the fastest eaters. Limited to 16 contestants (sign up at the Mercantile beginning at 12pm). Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Lawn (30 min).

**1-3pm      Antiques    *Woodworking*    “Roadshow”** – Got an antique woodworking tool? No clue what it is? Our village woodworker is here to help! Stop by the Carpenter Shop in the Pioneer Village with the tool (or a good picture of it) to find out what it is and how it was used.

**1:30pm Dressed for the Season** – Make a small cornhusk doll with husks dyed in beautiful fall colors. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence (45 min).

## Saturday, October 6 Autumn Harvest Days

### Continued...

**2:15pm Build Your Own Flatboat** – Build your own miniature flatboat to race down the creek later this afternoon! During the 1800s, flatboats carried the products of Spring Mill Village downriver to New Orleans; can you build a flatboat that will successfully carry its cargo down the creek? Pioneer Village, Carpenter Shop Lawn (45 min).

**2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

**3:00pm Pumpkin Centerpiece** – Make a cute little pumpkin to grace your fall table while learning which types of pumpkins are good for carving and which are best for eating. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).



**3:30pm Flatboat Race** – Bring over the flatboat you built earlier and put it to the test in this race down the creek! Prizes awarded for the fastest flatboat and the first to finish the race with its cargo intact. The race begins in front of the Munson House (Leather Shop) in the Pioneer Village (don't be late!).

**4:00pm Make-Your-Own Marbles** – With instruction from the village potter, you'll create your own set of marbles out of clay and then learn how to play this classic game. **Cost is \$3/set; limited to 15.** Signup available in the Distillery beginning at 9am. Pioneer Village, Distillery (30-45min).

**4:15pm Autumn Leaf Mural** – Gather a selection of colorful autumn leaves and use them to create a unique mural that celebrates the fall. A great craft for younger children! Nature Center, Amphitheater (30-45 min).



## Saturday, October 6 Autumn Harvest Days

### Continued...

**7-9pm Autumn Harvest Campsite Decorating Contest** – Show off your exterior design skills and give your campsite some seasonal flair! **All decorations must be in place by 7pm for judging; decorating your campsite automatically enters you into the contest.** Campsites will be judged only on decorations visible from the road (judges will *not* leave the wagon to tour sites on foot).




**Prize Categories:** Autumn Harvest (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>), October Festivals (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>), Most Creative, and the Scariest Site.

**7-9pm Pumpkin Competition** – Showcase your creative flair by designing a unique pumpkin! Pumpkins may be carved, painted, or otherwise decorated. **Place your pumpkin right next to the numbered post for your campsite; placing a pumpkin at this location automatically enters you into the competition.** Only one pumpkin per campsite will be judged – so make sure you choose the best one to place next to the post!



**Prize Categories:** Funniest, Scariest, Strangest, Best Autumn Theme, and Most Creative.

## Sunday, October 7      Autumn Harvest Days

- 10:30a-4p** **Candle-Dipping** – Drop by to dip your own pair of small candles while learning about the many different types of pioneer lighting. *A minimum donation of \$1/person is requested but not required.* Pioneer Village, Granny White House.
- 11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 12:30pm** **Hit the Nail on the Head** – Explore the history and technique of nail-making as the village blacksmith demonstrates the craft. For a small donation, some visitors can even take home one of the finished nails. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith's Shop (30 min).
- 1-3pm** **Pumpkin Painting** – October is pumpkin season! Drop in and celebrate the pumpkin harvest by painting a small pumpkin to take home (*while supplies last*). *Cost is \$1/pumpkin.* Butternut Picnic Area.
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- 1:30pm** **Pioneer Playthings** – Make a whizgig toy while learning about the types of toys that pioneer children used to have. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 2:15pm** **Daisy Spring Mills** – There would never have been a village here if not for the mill. Learn about the history of the gristmill and how its owners shaped the village. Pioneer Village, Gristmill (30 min).
- 2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 2:30pm** **Fall Leaves** – Design a unique leather leaf by carving in the vein pattern and painting the leather with the colors of fall. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (1 hr).

## Sunday, October 7      Autumn Harvest Days



### ***Continued...***

- 3:15pm** **A Day in the Life of a Village Potter** – As our village potter demonstrates how common forms of pottery were thrown on the wheel in the 1800s, she'll talk about the role that a potter played in a pioneer community. Pioneer Village, Distillery (30 min).
- 4:00pm** **Beat-a-Leaf Wall Hanging** – By transferring the colors of autumn leaves, you'll create a unique and beautiful cloth wall hanging while discovering why leaves change color. *Cost is \$1/project; limited to 30 projects (first-come, first-served).* A great project for a family to work on together! Nature Center, Amphitheater (45 min).



**October gave a party;  
The leaves by hundreds came -  
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,  
And leaves of every name.  
The Sunshine spread a carpet,  
And everything was grand,  
Miss Weather led the dancing,  
Professor Wind the band.  
~George Cooper, "October's Party"**

## Saturday, October 13 **SCARECROW WEEKEND**

- 10:30am Scarecrows Arise!** – Help design and erect the scarecrows that will loom over the Pioneer Village this weekend. Lots of helpers needed! Pioneer Village, Carriage House Lawn (45 min).
- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 12:30pm Acorn Pumpkins** – Transform a handful of acorns into adorable mini-pumpkins to decorate your house and while discovering how to identify different types of acorns. Nature Center, Amphitheater (30 min).
-  **1:30pm Cord-Making Workshop** – Use various colors of string to make cording that can be used as a bracelet while learning about the uses that pioneers had for cord. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (30 min).
- 2-4pm Pumpkin Patrol** – Help us carve up the pumpkins that will light people's paths through the Haunted Village tonight. We'll be carving till 4pm or until the pumpkins run out! Butternut Grove Shelter.
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 2:30pm Hamer Cemetery Stroll** – Discover more about who is buried in Hamer Cemetery and how some people locate unmarked graves using a technique called “dousing”. Meet in front of Hamer Cemetery (30 min).
-  **3:15pm Things That Go SCREECH in the Night!** – Learn about the cute little owl that terrified many pioneers and continues to frighten campers today. Nature Center, Amphitheater (30 min).
- 4:00pm PIONEER VILLAGE, NATURE CENTER, and TWIN CAVES CLOSE EARLY** today to prepare for the Haunted Village.

## Saturday, October 13 **SCARECROW WEEKEND** *Continued...*

- 4:30pm Costume and Candy Parade!** - Check out the creativity of your fellow campers as they parade through the campground, passing out candy to spectators!

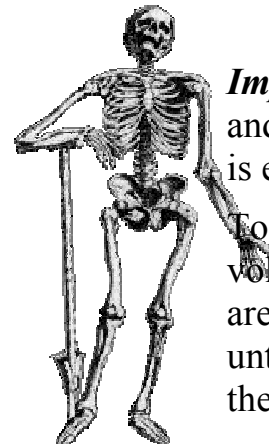


***Want to join in the parade?*** Dress up and arrive at the Campground Amphitheater (next to site #108) by **no later than 4:15pm!** Well-behaved dogs (in costume, of course) are welcome (*must be kept on a 6ft or shorter leash at all times*). And don't worry, we'll set some candy aside for all the human parade participants (and dog treats for costumed canines)!

- 7:30-10p The Haunted Village** - The Pioneer Village has been transformed into a frightening place to explore! Prepare to be scared as your group makes its way through the haunted buildings and streets... Line starts at the Concession Stand. *No visitors will be allowed beyond that point until the Haunted Village opens!*

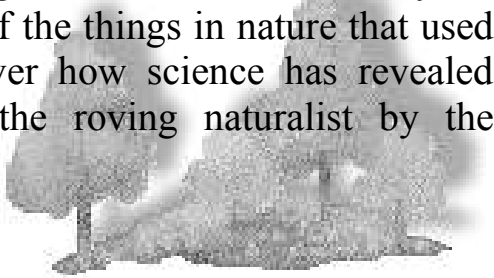
**Important Note:** The Haunted Village is designed for older children and adults – please do not bring young children! The subject matter is especially frightening, and inappropriate, for young kids.

To preserve the experience for everyone else, our staff and volunteers will not alter their performances when young children are present. If you bring a child and they become upset, please wait until the rest of your group has continued on and then alert one of the performers – they will instruct you on how to gain quick exit.



Sunday, October 14    **SCARECROW WEEKEND**

- 11:30am**    **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm**    **Slithering Snakes** – Meet a few real snakes up-close and explore the difference between snake myth and fact. Nature Center, Amphitheater (30 min).
- 2:00pm**    **Mysteries on the Wheel** – Our village potter will demonstrate how some rare pottery pieces from the 1800s were created on the wheel while you try to figure out their purpose. Pioneer Village, Distillery (30 min).
- 2:30pm**    **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 3:00pm**    **Inked in Time** – How would you write a story without a ballpoint pen or computer? Early pioneers made their own ink for writing and you’ll learn how in this hands-on program. Sheeks House, Summer Kitchen (1 hr).
- 4:00pm**    **Scarecrows!** – Make a cute raffia and fabric scarecrow and discover who invented scarecrows (and how old they really are). Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 3-5pm**    **Frights in the Forest** – We know a lot more today than we did 200 years ago, and that knowledge has transformed the way we view the world. Explore a few of the things in nature that used to frighten pioneers and discover how science has revealed their true nature. Watch for the roving naturalist by the Concession Stand.



Saturday, October 20    **Fall Family Weekend**


- 11:30am**    **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 12:30pm**    **What a Weave** – Learn the basics of weaving as you create your own coaster. Pioneer Village, Sheeks House (45-60 min).
- 1-4pm**    **Face-Painting!** – Celebrate the season by having your face decorated with a picture of falling leaves, pumpkins, and other autumn objects. Free (donations accepted). Concession Stand.
- 1:30pm**    **From Mud to Mugs** – Starting with a lump of clay, the village potter will demonstrate how to make a coffee mug from start to finish. Pioneer Village, Distillery (30 min).
- 2:00pm**    **Leather Tooling** – Tool your initials onto leather and make your own personalized bookmark. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (1 hr).
- 2:30pm**    **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 2:45pm**    **Bullroarers!** – Create a unique toy called a bullroarer, based on a Native American craft, and find out how to use it to make some noise. Nature Center, Amphitheater (30 min).
- 3:30pm**    **Gunpowder from Donaldson’s Cave?** – Tour the dry-side and entrance area of Donaldson’s Cave to learn about the history and technology of saltpetre mining and gunpowder manufacturing in Indiana. *Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes!* Meet at the footbridge next to Sycamore Shelter (1 hr 15 min).
- 3:30pm**    **Hair Pin Lace** – In this hands-on program with the village weaver, you’ll learn how hair pin lace was made and used by the pioneers. Pioneer Village, Sheeks House (1 hr).

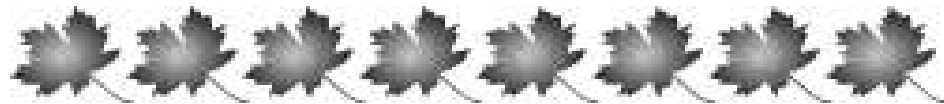


## Saturday, October 20

## Fall Family Weekend

### Continued...

- 4:15pm** **Blab School** – Step into the shoes of a pioneer student in the 1800s and attend our version of a “blab” school. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (40 min).
- 5:00pm** **Salamander Search** – Head into the woods to search for salamanders and learn about the most common types found in this area. Meet at the Twin Caves parking lot (30 min).
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- 7:30pm** **StoneBelt Stargazers’ Fall Star Party** – Get a whole new perspective on the night sky when you view it through a telescope! The Stargazers will bring their telescopes to share - and point out some of the wonders of the night. *We highly suggest bringing lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on (and your own binoculars or telescope, if you have one).* Swimming Pool parking lot (2 hr).



## Saturday, October 21


## Fall Family Weekend

- 11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 12:15pm** **Dinner Time!** – Watch as the blacksmith’s creates the classic triangular bell used to call family members to the dinner table. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith’s Shop (30-45 min).



## Sunday, October 21

## Fall Family Weekend

### Continued...

- 1:00pm** **Sidewalk Chalk Art Competition (All Ages Welcome!)** – Stake out your space on the Nature Center sidewalk and let your creativity flow... Bring your own chalk or use some of ours. *Prizes for all participants – special prize for the “Best Picture of Spring Mill State Park” and the “Most Creative”!* You’ll have till 2pm to complete your picture.
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**All participants must check-in at the Nature Center Exhibit Desk by 1:15pm!**

- 2:00pm** **Falling Leaves Nature Journal** – Create a unique nature journal using, and inspired by, beautiful autumn leaves. Nature Center, Amphitheater (45 min).
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- 2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 2:45pm** **Symbol Stones** – Come as a family and work together to create a unique, portable board game to play on your next family camping trip. Nature Center, Amphitheater (30-45 min).
- 3:30pm** **Pin on Fall** – Carry a bit of fall color around with you by creating a cute autumn lapel pin to wear. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).
- 3:45pm** **Down to Donaldson** – Explore the underground on this tour of the dry side of Donaldson Cave. Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes. Meet at Donaldson picnic area parking lot at the bulletin board (1 hr).
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Saturday, October 27

- 10a-12p

Spin, Span, Spun – Learn about the terms and techniques of spinning as a heritage interpreter turns wool into yarn. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Porch.
- 11:30am


Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:00pm

Snake Stories – As you meet a few real snakes up-close, you’ll discover what snakes are doing right now to prepare for the coming winter. Nature Center, Amphitheater (30 min).
- 2:00pm

Pioneer Possibilities – Learn about the uses that pioneers had for a “possibles” bag and make your own miniature version. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (45 min).
- 2:30pm

Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 3:30pm

Tin Can Lanterns – Punch a design through tin to create a great centerpiece for your campsite picnic table! Cost is \$1/lantern; limited to 30. Sign up beginning at 3pm - first-come, first-served. Nature Center, Amphitheater (30-45 min).
- 7:00pm




Pioneer Village Living History Stroll – Who were the people who lived in Spring Mill Village during the 1800s? Hear of their history, stories, and the rise and fall of village. *Donations Accepted. Bring a flashlight.* Meet at Concession Stand (1 hr).

Sunday, October 28

- 11:30am

Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).
- 1:30pm

Mums the Word – Make a pretty mum (a type of fall flower) out of cornhusks. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence (30 min).
- 2-4pm



Ice Age Animals – Check out some real remains of a mastodon and learn what other strange animals used to roam Indiana. Watch for the roving naturalist by the Concession Stand.
- 2:30pm

Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

November and December Special Events!

- November 3-4

Becoming a Pioneer Woman Workshop (\$)
- November 10

Autumn Crafts Day (\$)
- November 17

Thanksgiving Crafts Day (\$)
- November 18

Thanksgiving in the Village (\$)
- November 23

Holiday Crafts Day (\$)
- November 24

Holiday Crafts Day (\$)
- November 30

Holiday in the Village
- December 1

Holiday in the Village
- December 1

Holiday Campsite Decorating Contest
- December 8

A Children’s Pioneer Christmas (\$)
- December 28

Winter Wonderland Crafts Workshop (\$)
- December 29

Winter Bonfire & Winter Wander Hike